

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
determining node ID information identifying a second node device of a multi-node computer system, wherein a node device is a component of the multi-node computer system;  
storing the node ID information identifying the second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of the multi-node computer system; and  
retrieving, from a storage device of the second node device, node ID information identifying a third node device;  
wherein the first node device is connected to the second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and the second node device includes node ID information identifying the third node device.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
storing the node ID information identifying the third node device on the storage device located on the first node device;  
wherein the third node device includes a storage device containing node ID information identifying a fourth node device connected to the third node device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

retrieving, from the storage device of the third node device, the node ID information for the fourth node device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:  
storing the node ID information identifying the fourth node device on the storage device located on the first node device;

wherein the fourth node device includes a storage device containing node ID information identifying a fifth node device connected to the fourth node device.

6. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1 wherein the node ID information identifying the second node device is specified on a node ID specification device located on the second node device.

7. (Cancelled) The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node ID information identifying the second node device includes retrieving the node ID information identifying the second node device from the node ID specification device of the second node device.

8. (Cancelled) The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node ID information identifying the second node device includes transmitting the node ID information stored on the node ID specification device to the first node device.

9.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

determine node ID information identifying a second node device of a multi-node computer system, wherein a node device is a component of the multi-node computer system; and

store the node ID information identifying the second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of the multi-node computer system;

retrieve, from a storage device of the second node device, the node ID information identifying a third node device;

wherein the first node device is connected to the second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and the second node device includes node ID information for the third node device.

18. (Cancelled) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said computer readable medium is a read-only memory.

19. (Cancelled) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said computer readable medium is a hard disk drive.

20. (Currently Amended) A processor and memory configured to:

determine node ID information identifying a second node device of a multi-node computer system, wherein a node device is a component of the multi-node computer system; and

store said node ID information identifying said second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of said multi-node computer system;

retrieve, from a storage device of the second node device, the node ID information identifying a third node device;

wherein said first node device is connected to said second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and said second node device includes node ID information for the third node device.

21. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said processor and memory are incorporated into a network server.

22. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said processor and memory are incorporated into a workstation.

23. (Cancelled) A node ID discovery process comprising:
  - a node ID determination process for determining node ID information identifying a second node device of a multi-node computer system; and
  - a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information identifying said second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of said multi-node computer system;
  - a remote node device retrieval process for retrieving, from said storage device of said second node device, said node ID information identifying said third node device;

wherein said first node device is connected to said second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and said second node device includes node ID information identifying the third node device.
24. (Cancelled) The node ID discovery process of claim 23 further comprising:

wherein said node ID storage process stores said node ID information identifying said third node device on said storage device located on said first node device.
25. (Cancelled) A node ID discovery process comprising:
  - a node ID determination process for retrieving the node ID information identifying a first node device of a multi-node computer system from the first node device; and

a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information on a storage device located on a second node device of said multi-node computer system;

wherein said second node device is connected to said first node device.

26. (Cancelled) The node ID discovery process of claim 25 further comprising:
  - an information access process for allowing a third node device of said multi-node computer system to access said node ID information stored on said storage device of said second node device.
27. (Previously Presented) A node ID discovery system comprising:
  - a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;
  - a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;
  - a scalable node controller connected to one of said ports;
  - at least one microprocessor connected to said scalable node controller;
  - a node ID determination process for retrieving the node ID information identifying said multi-port switch from said multi-port switch; and
  - a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information identifying said multi-port switch on a storage device located on said scalable node controller;

wherein said multi-port switch includes a storage device containing node ID information identifying said I/O hub controller.

28. (Original) The node ID discovery system of claim 27 further comprising:
  - a remote node device retrieval process for retrieving, from said storage device of said multi-port switch, said node ID information for said I/O hub controller;

wherein said node ID storage process stores said node ID information for said I/O hub controller on said storage device located on said scalable node controller.
29. (Cancelled) A node ID discovery system comprising:
  - a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;
  - a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;
  - a scalable node controller connected to one of said ports;
  - at least one microprocessor connected to said scalable node controller;
  - a node ID determination process for retrieving the node ID information identifying said I/O hub controller from said I/O controller; and

a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information identifying said I/O hub controller on a storage device located on said multi-port switch.
30. (Cancelled) The node ID discovery system of claim 29 further comprising:
  - an information access process for allowing a scalable node controller to access said node ID information stored on said storage device of said multi-port switch.